

ASSOCIATED PRESS

30 DEC 1980

111A306

R R ZYVCZCVYX A0777

FAM-SPY COURT:260

PORTION OF SUIT AGAINST CIA; FBI NEAR SETTLEMENT

CHICAGO (AP) - A FEDERAL JUDGE GAVE PRELIMINARY APPROVAL TUESDAY TO A PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF A PORTION OF CLASS-ACTION LITIGATION STEMMING FROM ALLEGEDLY ILLEGAL SPYING AND COVERT OPERATIONS BY THE FBI AND CIA.

UNDER THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT, COMMUNITY GROUPS AND ACTIVISTS WOULD DROP THEIR SUIT AGAINST THE FBI AND THE CIA IN RETURN FOR A PLEDGE THAT THE AGENCIES FOLLOW NEW SURVEILLANCE GUIDELINES.

THE ACTION BY U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE SUSAN GETZENBANNER CLEARED THE WAY FOR A SETTLEMENT HEARING IN THE CASE, ATTORNEYS SAID.

UNDER TERMS OF THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT, THE FBI AND CIA WOULD NOT ADMIT ANY WRONGDOING.

LAWYERS SAID FIVE PLAINTIFFS IN THE LITIGATION HAD DECLINED TO JOIN IN THE PROPOSAL, BUT WOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO BLOCK THE SETTLEMENT.

ATTORNEYS FOR THOSE FIVE PLAINTIFFS HAVE SAID THE AGREEMENT IS NOT SUFFICIENTLY DETAILED TO PREVENT FURTHER MISCONDUCT BY THE AGENCIES. THEY SAID IN DOCUMENTS FILED TUESDAY THAT THE PROPOSAL WAS "FRAUGHT WITH AMBIGUITIES."

THE SETTLEMENT, IF APPROVED, WOULD END PART OF THE LITIGATION THAT HAS BEEN PENDING SINCE THE MID-1970s.

NEARLY FIVE DOZEN COMMUNITY, CIVIL RIGHTS AND RELIGIOUS GROUPS AND POLITICAL ACTIVISTS JOINED IN TWO LAWSUITS AGAINST SEVERAL FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS, AGENCIES AND THE CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT. THE PLAINTIFFS CLAIMED THE GOVERNMENT AND POLICE VIOLATED THEIR CIVIL RIGHTS THROUGH UNLAWFUL SURVEILLANCE OF POLITICAL MOVEMENTS AND ATTEMPTS TO SUBVERT AND DISRUPT POLITICAL ACTIVITY.

AP-NY-12-30 2310EST